

EQUITRAC
THE TRACKING COMPANY

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

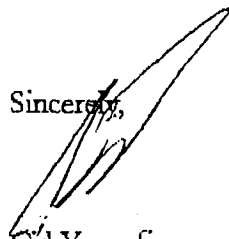
Your decision to settle the Justice Department's lawsuit against Microsoft offers every party involved in the matter the best of both worlds; Microsoft will cease its alleged unfair business practices to the immense benefit of its competitors while at the same be allowed to stay in tact as a company.

Microsoft certainly was penalized with more than a rap on the corporate knuckles. The settlement was arrived at after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator. Important to note is Microsoft's agreeing to terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were actually part of the suit; it demonstrates how much Microsoft is committed to settle this lawsuit.

Even though they may not realize it right now, Microsoft's biggest adversaries will benefit from the terms of the settlement. First of all, Microsoft has agreed to share its patented code for its Windows operating system with competitors. Second, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. These two measures will significantly increase competition.

I hope the settlement process is quickly concluded and that the settlement is implemented as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Cid Yousefi